



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Regular Session

FINAL AMENDED
FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1208

teacher certification; reciprocity

Purpose

Modifies teaching certification requirements concerning reciprocity, renewal and competency.

Background

The State Board of Education (SBE) is required to supervise and control the certification of persons engaged in instructional work in school districts. SBE adopts rules allowing for a variety of alternative teacher preparation programs and the issuance of specialized teaching certificates and reciprocal educator certificates (A.R.S. § 15-203). The Superintendent of Public Instruction is responsible for the issuance of the certificates based on the applicant's compliance with statute and rule.

In order to qualify for either a basic or standard teaching certificate an applicant must: 1) pass each component of the proficiency exam developed and administered by SBE; 2) complete the required classes or pass an examination on the U.S. and State Constitutions; and 3) obtain a structured English immersion (SEI) endorsement. SBE may issue a basic or standard teaching certificate for up to three years to certain teachers who have not met the proficiency examination and U.S. and State Constitution requirements at the time of application (A.R.S. §§ 15-532 and 15-533). Initial teaching certificates are valid for three years and may be renewed every six years.

Applicants for a reciprocal educator certificate must hold a valid teacher certification from a state with substantially similar criminal history or fingerprint requirements and demonstrate proof of the submission of an application for a fingerprint clearance card. Applicants are also required to hold at least a Bachelor's Degree and receive a passing score on the proficiency examinations unless the applicant holds three years of teaching experience, holds a Master's Degree or higher or is nationally board certified. Statute also makes an exception to the proficiency examination requirement for persons who have passed a proficiency examination adopted by a state agency in another state that is equivalent to the assessment adopted by SBE. Reciprocal certificates are valid for up to three years and may not be renewed or extended (A.R.S. § 15-533).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

Reciprocity

1. Issues a standard teaching certificate, without additional requirements from SBE or ADE, to an applicant who:
 - a) possesses a valid certification from another state that included passing that state's subject knowledge and professional exams;
 - b) is in good standing with that state; and
 - c) possesses a valid fingerprint clearance card from this state.
2. Exempts persons who obtain a standard teaching certificate through reciprocity from the teacher proficiency examination.
3. Requires certification rules concerning reciprocity to include a requirement for applicants to be in good standing with the other state.

Renewal and Competency Requirements

4. Directs SBE to adopt rules that:
 - a) allow for certificate renewal of at least 8 years; and
 - b) do not require more than 15 hours of continuing education credits each year in order to renew any certificate.
5. Exempts principals and superintendents from Arizona and U.S. Constitution competency requirements.
6. Increases, from not more than three years to at least three years, the amount of time a certificate is granted to a person who has not met one of the following:
 - a) Arizona and U.S. Constitution competency requirements; or
 - b) the teacher proficiency examination.
7. Removes a requirement for teachers who have not taught for 10 years to repass the teacher proficiency examination.
8. Exempts SEI endorsement requirements from teacher certification requirements unless the person is being certified to teach students in a sheltered English immersion or structured English immersion model.
9. States school districts and charter schools are not prohibited from requiring an SEI endorsement as a condition of employment.

Teaching Intern Certificates

10. Requires placement decisions of teaching intern certification holders to be based on agreements between the teacher preparation provider, the provider's partner organizations and the local education agency.

11. Limits ADE and SBE to only consider the following concerning the placement of teaching intern certification holders:
 - a) the academic quality of the school;
 - b) the effectiveness of the teaching intern certification holder's on-site mentor; and
 - c) the opportunity for a wide variety of schools and school models to access teaching intern certification holders concerning placement decisions.
12. Prohibits ADE and SBE from restricting the placement of teaching intern certification holders based on local education agency instruction models.

Miscellaneous

13. Makes technical and conforming changes.
14. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted by Committee of the Whole

1. Renews certifications for at least 10 years and prohibits SBE rule from requiring more than 15 hours of continuing education credits each year in order to renew a certification.
2. Limits Arizona and U.S. Constitution competency requirements to teachers in certain subject areas.
3. Limits SEI endorsement requirements to certain individuals.
4. Removes a requirement for teachers who have not taught for 10 years to repass the teacher proficiency exam.
5. Removes language that automatically renews a teaching certificate if the teacher does not receive notice within three weeks after submitting the renewal application.

Amendments Adopted by the House of Representatives

1. Renews certifications for at least eight years.
2. Reinserts Arizona and U.S. Constitution competency requirements for teacher and reciprocal certifications and SEI endorsement requirements for reciprocal certifications.
3. Requires reciprocal certification applicants to pass the other state's professional examinations.
4. Removes the issuance of a teaching intern certification to persons entering the practicum portion of an approved teacher preparation program.

5. Modifies the amount of time a certificate is granted to persons who have not met the Arizona and U.S. Constitution competency requirement or who have not passed the teacher proficiency examination.
6. Reinserts a requirement that grants a certificate for not more than one year to teachers who have not met the Arizona and U.S. Constitution competency requirements and who teach in specific subject areas including social studies.

Senate Action

ED	2/11/16	DP	4-2-1
3 rd Read	2/29/16		24-6-0
Final Read	5/4/16		28-0-2

House Action

ED	3/9/16	DP	5-0-1-1
3 rd Read	3/30/16		43-12-5

Signed by the Governor 5/18/16
Chapter 325

Prepared by Senate Research
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CB/lis